Coal Deposits in North Cachar Hill, Assam

4639. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total coal deposits in the Hill districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills in Assam:

(b) the annual production from these deposits at present: and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop the coal deposits in the said Hill districts as full-fledged productive unit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The total reserves of coal in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hill districts are as under:—

(Reserves in Million tonnes)

	Proved	Inferred	Total
1. Karbi Anglong District	0.52	1.50	2.02
2. North Cachar Hill District	0.17	0.52	0.69
	0.69	2.02	2.71

(b) and (c) The reserves explored till now not only meagre but are also widely distributed and do not have potential for commercial mining.

Exploration for Oil and Gas in North-Eastern Region

4640. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of PETRLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether any exploration work has been done so far in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts of Assam for finding the crude oil and natural gas deposits:

(b) if so, the results achieved so far;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to take up exploration in the said districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Data from geoscientific surveys is being processed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam Airports as International Airports

4641. SHRI K.V.R CHOWDARY:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to improve facilities at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam airports for their conversion into International Airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tours organised by ITDC

4642. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government to construct more dormitories to attract middle class domestic tourists in the tourist centres in the country;

(b) whether regular tours are conducted by ITDC buses to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Government for construction of Yatri Niwases, Yatrikas and Tourist Lodges having dormitories to meet the requirements of budget tourists.

(b) and (c) I.T.D.C. operates daily conducted tours from Madras to Tirupati. It covers darshan at Balaji Temple and Laxmi Temple in Mangapuram.

New Airport near Cochin

4643. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for shifting or making new airport near Cochin on account of paucity of space; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) The construction of a new airport near Cochin is not a feasible preposition both because of the non-availability of suitable land as well as the very high cost of the project.

Cost Over Runs of Mejia and Chamera Power Projects

4644. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest estimated costs of the Mejia thermal power project and the Chamera Hydro Electic Project;

(b) whether there is any cost over runs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to commission these projects on revised cost estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) A. Mejia Thermal Power Project—The revised estimated cost of the Mejia Thermal Power Project (3×210 MW) of the Damodar Valley Corporation is Rs. 1134.00 crores (at August '89 base). There is a cost over-run of Rs. 568.00 crores over the original estimated cost of Rs. 566.00 crores (March '86 base).